

MEDFORD STAR NEWS

Obey receives national award for community health care

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The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is presenting U.S. Representative David Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, with the 2008 "Distinguished Community Health Champion" award for his leadership on issues that impact the over 17 million people who rely on Community, Migrant, Public Housing and Homeless Health Centers for their health care.

The top award is given only to select Members of Congress who have gone above and beyond in demonstrating their commitment and support for health centers nationwide.

"Chairman Obey is a fighter who has always worked hard for America's Health Centers and, more importantly, understands their mission," said Tom Van Coverden, President and CEO of NACHC. "Under his leadership on the House Appropriations Committee, Congress has passed historic funding increases for the Federal Health Centers program so that more medically underserved people in America can have access to a health care home."

The national award presentation to Representative Obey comes as health centers from across the country convene for the 33rd annual NACHC Policy and Issues Forum in Washington, D.C.

Health centers serve as the health care home for 17 million people in over 6,300 sites, and are

recognized as an invaluable part of the nation's health delivery system. They save the health care system \$9.9 billion to \$17.6 billion a year and have drawn top ratings as one of the most highly effective federal programs by the budget conscious White House Office of Management and Budget.